

## ***EUMEDGRID-Support User Forum*** ***Speaker Profiles***

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## Salem Alagtash, ASREN, Jordan



**Salem Al-Agtash**, got his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1998. He is now an associate professor of Computer Engineering at Yarmouk University and a Senior Advisor on ICT and Technology at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization. Dr. Al-Agtash teaches classes in the fields of computer systems, electrical engineering, systems programming, and robotics at the undergraduate and graduate level. His research interests are in the areas of electricity markets, agent based energy systems, education, innovation, and industrial linkages and international cooperation.

Beyond his academic work, he is a consultant and advisor on several technology and education related projects at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, European Commission, United Nations, University, and many national and international organizations. During his academic career, he served as a department chair, founding director, founding dean, and currently the managing director of the Arab States Research and Education Network, GmbH, a non-profit institution responsible for developing a sustainable Pan-Arab e-Infrastructure dedicated for research and education and connecting the Arab Universities and research centers.

Dr. Al-Agtash is fluent in Arabic, English, and Turkish, has devoted a large portion of his career towards research advancement, developing relevant and quality ICT educational programs, strengthening tri-partite links between university, private sector and government, and building international cooperation. He won several awards and grants and has published more than twenty refereed journal papers and about twenty five conference papers and working reports. He is a prominent speaker in many national and international conferences and meetings. For more information, please visit his personal website at: [www.alagtash.com](http://www.alagtash.com).

## Nourendjourn Alioui-Bendjaballah, USTHB, Algeria



Dr Alioui-Bendjaballah, born in 1969 in Bejaïa (Algeria), is a teacher-researcher at the USTHB (University of Sciences and Technologies of Houari Boumedienne) of Algiers. She entered this university in 1987, and after four years study she graduated in radiation physics. Interested in nuclear physics research, she joined SNIRM laboratory (Laboratoire des Sciences Nucléaires et Interaction Rayonnement-Matière) of the physics faculty at the same university in 1992. She became a member of this laboratory after getting her Magister Thesis in 1995 in nuclear structure domain. In 2004, she obtained her Sciences Doctorate in photon statistics domain.

Since 2007, she has been involved in medical physics and she is currently a supervisor of magister (third cycle thesis) using computing methods based on Monte Carlo code. She participated to EPIKH school event in July 2010 where the application GATE (Geant4 Application for Tomographic Emission) was ported and became a user of the EUMEDGRID infrastructure.

## **Roberto Barbera, University of Catania & INFN & COMETA, Italy**



Prof. **Roberto Barbera** was born in Catania (Italy) in October 1963. He graduated in Physics "cum laude" at the University of Catania in 1986 and since 1990 he holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the same University. Since beginning of 2005 he is Associated Professor at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the Catania University. Since his graduation his main research activity has been done in the domains of Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics. He has been involved in many experiments in France, Russia, United States and Sweden to study nuclear matter properties in heavy ion collisions at intermediate energies. He is author of about 90 scientific papers published on international journals and more than 150 proceedings of international conferences. He is editor of the International Journal of Distributed Systems and Technologies and referee of both Journal of Grid Computing and Future Generation Computer Systems. Since 1997 he is involved in the NA57 Experiment at CERN SPS and in the ALICE Experiment at CERN LHC. Within ALICE, he has been the coordinator of the Off-line software of the Inner Tracking System detector and member of the Off-line Board. Since late 1999 he is interested in Grid Computing. He is member of the Executive Board of the Italian INFN Grid Project , of the Executive Committee of the Italian Grid Infrastructure (the Italian National Grid Initiative) and of the Scientific & Technical Committee of GARR (the Italian National Research and Education Network). Between 2005 and 2009 he has been the Director of two big Grid Projects (TriGrid VL and PI2S2 ) funded by the Sicilian Regional Government and by the Ministry of University and Research, respectively. At European level, he has been involved with managerial duties in many EU funded projects and he is currently the Coordinator of the EPIKH project. Since 2002 he is the responsible of the GENIUS Grid portal project and, in 2004, he created the international GILDA Grid infrastructure for training and dissemination that he coordinates since the beginning.

## **Bruce Becker, Meraka Institute, South Africa**



**Bruce Becker** obtained his Ph.D. in experimental ultrarelativistic heavy-ion physics, working on the ALICE experiment at CERN's LHC, and specialising in HPC for physics applications. Since March 2008 Dr. Becker has acted as the coordinator of the South African National Grid, with responsibilities including organising training sessions at participating institutes, building consensus on deployment and organisational issues, His current position is Senior Researcher at the Meraka Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, where he continues to coordinate the deployment and integration of research HPC facilities into the national grid, and the national e-Infrastructure.

He is also involved in several FP7-funded research and policy projects and the development of the Regional Operations Centre for AfricaGrid, as well as the coordinator of the HP Catalyst Programme "Global Collaboratory" theme. In the context of the HP-UNESCO Brain Gain Initiative, he coordinates the development and porting of grid applications, as well as the training of technical and scientific communities in the region.

## **Hassina Beggar, CERIST, Algeria**



**Hassina Beggar** is a mathematic-informatics researcher in the Research Center on Scientific and Technical Information, CERIST of Algiers since November 2006. She received the Engineering degree in Operations Research at the University of Science and Technologies of Houari Boumedienne of Algiers (USTHB) in 2005. She worked for the first year in CERIST on Decision making aid and optimisation, Scheduling and management of tasks using Workflow and BPM (Business Process Management) technics. Since 2007 she focused on Grid Computing by working in the EUMEDGRID project and became a Member of the site administrator team of the Algerian EUMEDGRID and national grid (DZ-GRID) clusters. In 2009 she became Member of the research team on the grid computing Through her magisterium thesis (using grid computing to solve linear optimisation problems) in Operations Research option Mathematics of management at the University of science and technologies of Houari Boumedienne of Algiers (USTHB)

She participated as tutor to the EPIKH/EUMED Support Application Potring School held in Rabat-Morroco from 04 to 16 June 2011.

Hassina Beggar's current research interests include the Message Passing Interface, parallelizing linear optimisation methods using MPI, business process modelling and integration.

## Marc Bellon, Brain Gain Initiative, UNESCO



**Marc Bellon** studied International Law, Economics and Development at Paris Descartes University. He is currently working at the Section for Higher Education, UNESCO, as a project manager for the secretariat of the Brain Gain Initiative. The Initiative, the fruit of a partnership between UNESCO and the Hewlett-Packard company, is designed to foster practical research collaboration between higher education institutions and highly-skilled expatriates, as well as to contribute to the creation of the first African university e-infrastructure. It is now active in Africa and the Arab States, gathering nineteen universities, engineering schools and research centres.

## Riccardo Bruno, INFN, Italy



Dr. **Riccardo Bruno** was Born in Catania the 3rd December 1969 he got the degree in computer science in May 1999. Since 2006 he is working at INFN Div. Of Catania. He has been involved in the following EU co-funded Grid projects: EUMEDGRID, EGEE-2, EELA-2 and EUMEDGRID-Support. Currently is working for the 'Consorzio COMETA' as task leader of WP3 Application Support. During the EELA-2 project he was the responsible of training activities, organizing and attending all project' training events. He participated to EGEE-2 developing and supporting EGEE-2 training material. During the EUMEDGRID project he was the task leader of project' activity: Dissemination of Advanced Knowledge organizing and attending induction courses in Mediterranean countries. He has been involved in supporting Grid users to run properly their applications and experiments. From April 2000 he joined the LHS Company as software consultant for the BSCS billing system sold to mobile operators belonging to the EMEA countries. He started to work in 1999 as researcher for the University of Catania involved into Computer Vision and Augmented reality experiments.

## Antonio Budano, INFN, Italy



In 2003 **Antonio Budano** took a degree in Physics at the Roma Tre University. Since 2006 he is involved in GRID activities; in particular he participated to the international projects EUChinaGRID and EUMEDGRID. During this period he also participated as tutor to several training activities (School for porting application and Tutorials). Since 2008 he is Grid Site Administrator for the INFN-ROMA3 site. He is now working for the EUMEDGRID-Support project with the responsibility of the INFN-ROMA3 site and he is involved in the applications using parallel architectures as MPI and GPU.

He is also participating to some INFN physics experiments: Argo-YBJ hosted in Tibet, China at 4300 m a.s.l. that studies cosmic rays, and KLOE hosted in the Dafne e+e- accelerator in Frascati (Rome, Italy) that studies the decays of the K particles. In these experiments he is responsible of the Data Acquisition System.

## Chaker El Amrani, University of Tangiers, Morocco



Dr. **Chaker El Amrani** received a BS in Physics (1990), and is a European Master in Environmental System Modelling (1992) and Doctor in Mathematical Modelling and Numerical Simulation from the University of Liège (2001). He joined Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Morocco in 2003. He is currently Chair of the Computer Engineering Department at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Tangier. He is the NATO Partner Country Project Director for a real-time remote sensing initiative for early warning and mitigation of disasters and epidemics in Morocco. He lectures parallel computing and security, and he is promoting High Performance Computing education in the University. He joined in 2001 Thales Information Systems Company based in Brussels, and worked in Belgocontrol as Air Traffic Control Software Engineer. Dr. El Amrani is member of several scientific associations and societies and serves on several national and international scientific and organizing committees. He is author and co-author of a number of scientific papers that have been published in scientific journals and conference proceedings. Since 2004, Dr. El Amrani has served as an active volunteer in IEEE Morocco Section, and local officer of IEEE MS at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Tangier. He was the IEEE Morocco Section Electronic Communications Coordinator from 2003 until 2008. Dr. El Amrani is IEEE Morocco Section Treasurer, Vice Chair of IEEE Communication & Computer Societies Morocco Chapter, and advisor of the IEEE Computer Society Student Branch Chapter at Abdelmalek Essaadi University. He is member of the Computer Science, Systems and Telecommunication Laboratory (LIST), at Abdelmalek Essaadi University. His research



interests include high-performance computing, GPU, Cloud and Grid Computing and Environmental Information Systems. Dr. El Amrani's research has been supported by national and international organisms. He is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the High Performance Computing Lab in the George Washington University in 2010, and is since then member of the Fulbright Association.

## **Ashraf Hussein, Ain Shams University, Egypt**



**Ashraf S. Hussein** is a Professor of Scientific Computing, Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences, Ain Shams University. He received his B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Cairo University, Egypt in 1992, 1996 and 1999, respectively. His research areas cover Modeling and Simulation, Computational Techniques in Science and Engineering, Computer Graphics and Visualization, and High Performance Computing (HPC) Applications. He has more than 50 published scientific papers in international journals and conferences in the aforesaid research areas. Dr. Hussein has contributed to more than 15 R&D and incubation projects at the IBM Technology-Development-Center (TDC) and Center-for-Advanced-Studies in Cairo along the last 15 years as senior software engineer, visiting scientist and fellow scientist. The recent of these projects concerned with Environmental Modeling and Simulation and Large Satellite Image Analysis using IBM Blue Gene High performance Computing platform. He received several awards for his publications and projects. Dr. Hussein is a member of many journals and conferences technical committees in addition he is a professional member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). Dr. Hussein joined the Supreme Council of Egyptian Universities in 2005 as a manager and founder of the Central Unit of IT Training. In addition, he took the responsibility of managing the National e-Learning Center, early 2009. Recently, he promoted to be the first director for the Center of Knowledge and Electronic Services, Supreme Council of Universities, Ministry of Higher Education.

## Amina Khedimi, CERIST, Algeria



**Amina Khedimi** is mathematic-informatics researcher in the Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique, CERIST of Algiers since April 2006. She received the Engineering degree in Operational Research from University of Science and Technology of Algiers, USTHB in 2005. She worked on Business Process Management modeling and workflow where she took care of the realization of a system to manage the different services of the Networks Division in CERIST. In 2007 She became a member of the research team of EUMEDGRID project in Cerist. She participates on the installation and administration of the Algerian clusters. She is preparing her magisterium degree in Operational Research, option Multicriteria Combinatorial Optimization. The thesis is entitled "Grid computing for solving Bi-Objective scheduling problems" since 2009.

She participated to EUMEDGRID-Support/ Epikh school application porting held in Rabat, Morocco from 04 to 16 June 2011 as tutor.

## Fairouz Malek, LPSC CNRS, France



**Fairouz Malek** is Research Director at CNRS France and Scientific project director of LCG-France. She is currently also the Team Leader for the ATLAS/CERN experiment at LPSC Grenoble: <http://lpsc.in2p3.fr/> and working on a special assignment by IN2P3/CNRS to coordinate the project CFMA : <http://cfma.in2p3.fr> putting her in charge to promote collaborations and projects within the Mediterranean basin and sub-Saharan Africa.

She is a distinguished member of numerous scientific groups and board such as WLCG and ATLAS collaboration boards, the France representative to WLCG Overview board, a member of EUMEDGRID-Support project and of the EPS Interdivisional Group of Physics for Development. She is also member, founder and first president of the Alpes Women and Science association of the French Physics Society, elected to National council and bureau. She has been the manager of the North-South Committee (2005-2011) and was nominated to C13 commission of IUPAP (physics for development).



## Achraf Othman, UTIC, Tunisia



**Achraf Othman** is currently a PhD student under the supervision of Prof. Mohamed Jemni. He received in August 2010 the Master degree on Computer Science from Tunis College of Sciences and Techniques (ESSTT), University of Tunis in Tunisia. His research interests are in the areas of Sign Language Processing. His current topics of interests include Grid Computing, Computer graphics and Accessibility of ICT to disabled users.

## Mario Reale, GARR, Italy



**Mario Reale** graduated in High Energy Physics in 1992 at the University of Rome II, then got his Ph.D in High Energy Physics from the University of Wuppertal in 1997. He started working in the Grid domain in 2001, when he joined the Work Package HEP Applications (WP8) of the DataGrid project (2001-2004) - as an Experiment-independent tester. He then worked for CERN in the EGEE project, as middleware tester (2004-2006). In 2006 He joined GARR, the Italian Research and Education Network, where he worked in the EGEE II and EGEE III SA2 activity (network support), working on the IPv6 compliance of the Grid middleware (gLite).

He is currently Technical Coordinator and WP4 Manager of the EUMEDGRID-Support project, and he is coordinating the Network Support Coordination task of EGI.

## Ahmed Sayed, Cairo University, Egypt



Dr. **Ahmed Sayed** ([atsayed@ucdavis.edu](mailto:atsayed@ucdavis.edu)); graduated from Cairo University, electronics and electrical communications department, in 1995 with Honors. He received his MSc. in computer engineering in 1997 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with Honors. He joined Intel Corp. as a design engineer in Jan. 1998 till 2007.

He received his PhD from the University of California, Davis in 2007. He has taught at several public and private universities in Egypt and has several publications in the digital electronics and parallel programming fields. He joined IBM Cairo in Sep. 2008 as a research scientist. He holds one patent with Intel and two to be filed with IBM. He is the design manager of a privately held company starting February 2011.